

REMARKS**Claim Status**

After entry of the above amendment, claims 19-24 will be pending in the application. This paper rewrites claim 19 in independent form; adds new dependent claims 20-24; and cancels claims 1-18 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 19 is the independent claims of the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the notification of allowable subject matter in claim 19. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of its base claim 5. Consequently, claim 19 should now be allowable. New claims 20-24 have been added. Each of these new claims depends, directly or through an intervening claim, from the allowable claim 19, and therefore should also be allowable.

Support for additional limitations in claims 20-24 is found in the specification and drawings.

Support for claim 20 may be found, *inter alia*, in Figure 2, which shows slot 15 in which CPE F sends upstream data over channel D. Note that the MAP 12 for the CPE F was received over channel C, and that CPE F received downstream data in slot 11 over channel D.

Support for claim 21 may be found, *inter alia*, in Figure 2, which shows that the upstream frame that includes slot 15 immediately follows the downstream frame that includes slot 11 and MAP 12.

Support for claims 22 and 23 may be found, *inter alia*, in Figure 2, which shows synchronous upstream data transmissions from CPE E and CPE F in slot 15. Note that the same MAP 12 controls both CPE E and CPE F.

Support for claim 24 may be found, *inter alia*, in Figure 2, which shows MAP 12 and downstream data burst for CPE F in slot 11 being part of the same downstream frame. Note that MAP 12 controls downstream data burst for CPE F in slot 11.

Entry of Amendment

The above amendments rewrite the allowable claim 19 in independent form, including all limitations of its base claim 5. (There were no intervening claims.) The new claims 20-24 all depend from the allowable claim 19. All other claims have been canceled. Therefore, entry of the amendments will comply with the Examiner's objections, cancel rejected claims, and place the application in condition for allowance, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner. Therefore, the amendments may be entered. MPEP § 714.13. Applicants respectfully request such action.


CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. To discuss any matter pertaining to the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (858) 720-9431.

Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a timely notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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